



CNO praises 85 years of Naval Reserve service

"You can look back with pride, and look forward with excitement,"

— Adm. Jay L. Johnson, CNO

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson recently took time to celebrate the 85th birthday of the Naval Reserve — praising its past, detailing its present and describing its future.

"I think you can look back with pride, and look forward with excitement," Johnson told guests at the Naval Reserve Birthday Ball, held March 18 in Washington, D.C.

The CNO went on to describe how President Woodrow Wilson's 1915 plan to rejuvenate the Navy depended on the creation of the Naval Reserve.

"President Wilson at that time revitalized the Navy with a two-pronged plan. The first of those prongs was to create the Naval Reserve. And the second was to build a Navy that was second to none," said

Johnson. "It was a powerful notion and a powerful direction that he gave, because you see, you can't have the latter without the former."

The Navy's ability to fight and win 30 years later in World War II can be traced back to that decision, Johnson said.

"Four out of five Sailors in World War II were Naval Reservists. They won for us the world we enjoy today, and then came home and built this country," said Johnson.

Johnson noted that the Naval Reserve remains as vital as ever to the daily operations of today's Navy.

"You know the story," CNO said. "Half our Navy's underway and one-third forward deployed as we speak. Active and reserve, side by side — indispensable to, and

See **CNO**, page 4

President nominates Adm. Clark as next CNO



WASHINGTON (NNS) — Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen announced April 3 that the President has nominated Adm. Vern E. Clark for appointment to the grade of admiral and assignment as Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Admiral Clark is currently serving as Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, Va.

Commenting on the announcement, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson said, "I am tremendously pleased that the President has nominated Admiral Vern Clark to be the next Chief of Naval Operations. He is an officer of outstanding character, keen intellect and broad operational experience who cares deeply about our men and women in uniform and their families. He will be a superb Chief of Naval Operations."

To learn more about Adm. Vern Clark, go to: <http://www.atlanticfleet.navy.mil/cincbio.htm>.

FDNF volunteers offered incentives

By Michael McLellan, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — Navy officials have decided to "sweeten the pot" for Sailors who volunteer to transfer early to one of the 27 Forward-Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF) sea duty units.

Petty officers third class to chief petty officers in several ratings who request an early transfer and meet all eligibility requirements will get to choose either a follow-on East Coast or West Coast shore duty assignment or a class "C" school. But they must agree to two things to be eligible:

1) Rotate at least six months early to one of the more than 16,000 "type four" sea duty billets; and

2) Successfully complete a prescribed

sea tour or at least 36 months at their new command.

Interested Sailors should contact their rating detailer to find out if they are eligible and what billets are available. Sailors can anticipate receipt of orders within two weeks after they reach agreement on their assignment with their detailer.

Sailors filling billets in recruiting, recruit division commander, physical security, critical one-for-one billets or Department of Defense overseas tours which require a mandatory tour length are not eligible to apply for voluntary termination of shore duty.

See **FDNF**, page 2

Local training authorities increase opportunities

By Ensign Sid Armer, Chief of Naval Education and Training Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) — New initiatives undertaken by the Local Training Authorities (LTAs) in Mayport, Fla., and Bangor, Wash., are successfully providing needed training to Sailors, keeping them closer to their homeports between deployments and saving the Navy money.

The Bangor LTA has designated the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) and the Olympic College as Non-Traditional Training Sites (NTTS). The shipyard provides training in areas such as valve and pump maintenance and aircraft emergency welding. Olympic College teaches courses in mess operation, disbursing and shipboard barber. The Bangor Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) department provides swimmer certification and the second class swimmer test.

The Bangor LTA also coordinates Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) from Fleet Training Center (FTC) San Diego. The MTT teaches courses that are designed to meet fleet training requirements.

The Mayport LTA recently initiated actions to improve training for Sailors in Pascagoula, Miss. Two courses, damage control team training and helicopter fire fighting, have been relocated to the Mississippi Air National Guard trainer in Gulfport, Miss. The trainer is located 30 minutes by car from Pascagoula as opposed to the trainers in Mayport that are more than eight hours away.

"This change allows us to send only seven instructors to Gulfport versus 24 students to Mayport, a significant saving in travel costs and improvement in the quality of life for the Sailors," said CWO4

Ken Northrop, the director of the Mayport LTA.

The Mayport LTA also acquired a mobile wet trainer that will be permanently placed in Pascagoula. Instructors will be sent from Mayport to use the wet trainers to conduct training at a reduced cost while maintaining a high standard of quality.

The Mayport LTA brokers exportable training to Pascagoula and Mayport. The LTA arranges class locations, instructors and funding for such courses as undersea warfare, cryptology courses and dockside underway replenishment.

The LTAs were established to maximize training opportunities for Sailors while reducing costs for the Navy. In addition to Bangor and Mayport, there are LTAs located in Hampton Roads, Va.; Ingleside, Texas; San Diego, Calif. and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The LTAs look for Non-Traditional Training Sites (NTTS) such as colleges, shipyards, vocational schools, and other qualified sites to conduct training in the fleet concentration areas. They also look for ways to provide training that can be conducted locally in the fleet concentration areas.

The LTAs have enacted many programs to increase training opportunities for Sailors while lowering travel costs. They will continue to find new ways and venues to provide high-quality training in fleet areas that meets the Navy's standards while improving the quality of life of the Sailors by keeping them in their homeport.

To learn more about CNET's education and training programs, go to: <http://www.cnet.navy.mil>

No explosives contamination found in Vieques groundwater

By Naval Forces Southern Command Public Affairs

ROOSEVELT ROADS, Puerto Rico (NNS) — The results of a recent environmental study of Vieques Island have been released. The study indicates that Navy activities on the island's target range live impact area are not causing a threat to human health or the environment via soil or groundwater.

The study, conducted jointly by private environmental consultants CH2M Hill and Baker Environmental, Inc., was a hydrogeologic investigation at the western property boundary of the Eastern Maneuver Area on the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility range.

A total of 32 surface soil samples were collected for laboratory analysis. Twenty-one of the samples were collected at storm drains located along the Navy facility's western property line and the remaining 11 were collected directly adjacent to groundwater monitoring wells located at various areas along the property boundary line.

Results of the study indicate that no explosives-related compounds were present in the surface soil or groundwater samples. The study also revealed that groundwater does not move from the range area to populated areas, but rather that, generally, the flow of any ground water is in a northeasterly direction, from the center of the island outward. These two findings would indicate that explosive-related compounds were not impacting populated areas of Vieques.

The Navy provided the study to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a division of the Center for Disease Control at ATSDR's request to assist their effort to identify what, if any, cancer-causing pathways of contamination might exist on Vieques.

FDNF, continued from page 1

In addition to the new incentives, Sailors serving on FDNF ships who are accompanied with their families receive Cost of Living Allowances (COLA). Rates of COLA are determined by the geographic location of the FDNF ship. Additionally, because COLA is an allowance it is tax-

free. Other incentives to serving overseas include Overseas Tour Extension Incentive Program (OTEIP) benefits and Continuous Overseas Travel benefits.

Additional information, including eligible ratings, is available in NAVADMIN 053/00.

Pearl Harbor Sailor receives Navy/Marine Corps Medal

By Journalist 2nd Class Greg Cleghorne, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) — Postal Clerk 3rd Class Shannon Victor of USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) was awarded the Navy/Marine Corps Medal for saving lives following the catastrophic rock slide that claimed eight lives and injured 50 others at Oahu's Sacred Falls State Park on May 9, 1999.

Rear Adm. John W. Townes III, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific commander, presented the medal to Victor on the ship's fantail March 24. He said Victor's actions exemplified the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment to the Navy and to the communities we live in.

Victor, a native of Houston, Texas, was recognized for saving lives — at the risk of his own — during the fatal rockslide at the popular waterfall park.

Victor was approaching the falls when he heard the thunderous sound of car-sized boulders crashing to the ground on and around frightened visitors. The rumbling was followed by the screams of the injured and the shocked caught in the path of the fatal slide.

Rather than turn and go, Victor "ran as fast as he could" to assist in any way possible.

"I really wasn't thinking about my own safety at the time," Victor recalled. "I was trying to help keep the victims alive."

The 21-year-old Sailor credits his Navy training and his mother, who works in a hospital, for his ability to handle the crisis situation.

"It was a pretty bad scene," he recalled. "I helped move the injured people to a safer area away from the slide. We helped a little girl first (7-year-old

Danielle Williams). Her mom, who was in shock, was still holding her. I was able to pick up the little girl — she was yelling and screaming."

"I carried her in my arms to a safer site and carefully placed her under a tree," he continued. "She was hurt pretty badly. We tried to calm her down because she was moving around a lot and we were worried that she would injure herself more."

Thinking quickly, Victor began making tree-branch splints, wrapping them around broken bones with strips of cloth made from the shirt off his back; what was left of his shirt he used to make field bandages, then administered CPR.

"Sometimes we had to try to stop the bleeding of the injured by holding their broken limbs together with our hands," Victor said. "A team of people and I helped keep the little girl

alive as long as we could, but on the way out, she went into shock and stopped screaming."

In the moments after Hawaii's worst natural disaster, scores of Oahu's emergency service teams descended on the area to assist the injured. The narrowness of the gorge the accident occurred in prevented emergency helicopters from flying in to assist. Rescuers had to carry victims more than a mile to the trailhead's clearing and awaiting emergency helicopters and ambulances.

"I was surprised and relieved to see all the paramedics and medical support people when we cleared the trail," Victor said. "They took the little girl and that was it for me. I couldn't watch anymore. I saw she was slipping. She gave signs she was hanging on, but she was

See Medal, page 4

Honoring Women in the Military



The Women in Military Service for America Memorial is the nation's first major national memorial honoring women who served in the armed forces during all eras and in all services. The Women in Military Service for America Memorial is perhaps the largest and best-known tribute to women's contributions to the nation's defense and defenders.

Photo by Rudi Williams

Toddler saves dad in Guantanamo Bay accident

By Chief Journalist Walter T. Ham IV, Naval Base Guantanamo Bay Public Affairs

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba (NNS) — A fishing trip could have turned into a tragedy recently if it wasn't for the quick thinking of a four-year-old boy.

Hospital Corpsman Ryan D. Cross was driving a rented skiff across Guantanamo Bay when his boat hit something in the water, throwing him overboard and sending his four-year-old son, Connor, crashing into the deck.

Cross was soon dodging the engine's churning propellers as the boat did high-speed circles around him. He could have tried to swim to a safer area but decided to stay close to the boat because his son was still on board.

Connor could see his father in the water

and was doing everything he could to stop the boat. Connor tried to pull the kill switch lanyard that automatically shuts down the engine as his parent's had taught him, but that didn't work. He pushed every button on the control panel and nothing worked.

In the water, his father choked on mouthfuls of spilled gasoline and seawater as he swam under the boat to avoid the propellers.

After trying everything else, Connor pulled back the throttle and brought the boat to a stop.

Another Sailor who had been fishing nearby, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class(AW/FMF) Ryan L. Montgomery, had seen the whole ordeal and arrived in his boat soon

after to lend a hand.

After the skiff was towed back to the marina and everybody was safely ashore, Connor said, "I knew I had to stop the boat. I just had to figure out how to do it."

Cross, who works in Guantanamo Bay's U.S. Naval Hospital leeward ambulance services division, was proud of how his son handled the emergency. "He didn't panic. He didn't jump into the water after me. He just stayed calm and tried to stop the boat. And he saved my life."

Cross now extols the value of always wearing the kill switch lanyard at all times while boating. If he had worn it, the engine would have stopped when he fell into the water.

Medal, continued from page 3 —

slipping."

Danielle later died.

Victor couldn't remember how many people he assisted, treated or consoled. He said it was kind of a blur. But, after doing all he could, he quietly went home.

"When I helped the last person I could, I didn't wait around," he said. "I just walked off."

When asked if he thinks he's a hero, he modestly and softly said, "No. I was just there and did what I could."

The Navy Marine Corps Medal is awarded to active duty Navy or Marine Corps members who distinguish themselves for acts of heroism, not involving actual conflict, at the risk of their own life. In order of precedence, the award is among the Navy's 10 highest medals, and is the highest peacetime medal for heroism.

CNO, continued from page 1 —

indistinguishable from the active force — that's our Naval Reserve."

Johnson noted that the reserves are facing the same challenges in recruiting as the active Navy.

"On the reserve side, we need about 20,000 men and women this year," said Johnson. "I would report to you that in the fiscal year to date, we only have about three out of four of the people that we need," he said. Filling the recruiting quotas will remain "a daunting task" Johnson said.

CNO closed by emphasizing that the Navy's top priority remains its men and women, both active duty and reserve.

"My request to you in the coming years is to do everything that you can to unburden our Sailors, and take better care of them and their families. Empower their commanders and their leaders. Keep building trust and confidence in the chain of command. And never ever accept the status quo."

On Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on this week's show:

- * Look into the future of our Submarine Force as we head for the 21st century;

- * Tour the submarine museums around the country where you can climb aboard Navy history;

- * Sailors in Bangor, Wash., are doing their best to protect the environment and meet some of their happy neighbors;

- * The U.S. Postal Service honors submariners everywhere with a commemorative stamp.

Compiled on tape #2000-15, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

In naval history: April 10, 1963

USS Thresher (SSN 593) was lost with all hands (112 crew and 12 civilians) during diving trials east of Cape Cod, Mass. It was the first nuclear sub to be lost.

Submarine Centennial history: April 11, 1900

John P. Holland sells his internal combustion, gasoline powered submarine, "Holland VI" to the Navy for \$160,000, after demonstration trials off Mount Vernon, Va. This marks the official birth date of the U.S. Navy's submarine force.

For more information on the Submarine Centennial, go to <http://www.navy.mil> and click on "Submarine Centennial".

NAVNEWS, a weekly publication containing stories of fleetwide interest, is an official product of the Naval Media Center.

The desktop version of NavNews can be accessed on the Navy Home Page: www.navy.mil. E-mail stories submissions to: pubs@mediacen.navy.mil or call NavNews at (703)695-0911; DSN 225-0911.

